Violation of Provident Fund Act

2826. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are receiving complaints of violation of Provident Fund Act by industrial Units in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware of the fact that usually the Inspectors sent by the office of the Labour Commissioner to check up which a particular unit is following labour laws like PF Act, ESIS etc., are bribed; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that the workers working in the industrial units, where these laws are applicable, get the benefits of such laws?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The provisions of the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 and the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are being administered by the ESI Corporation and the EPF Organisation respectively. There have been sporadic complaints alleging malpractices adopted by EPF and ESI authorities in securing compliance under these Acts. In order to overcome this problem the vigilance machinery has been strengthened so as to take prompt remedial action on the complaints received in this regard. Special squads are also constituted to undertake investigation where gross violation of the Act is reported. Legal & penal action as provided under respective Acts and where necessary, also under the IPC is taken against the employers who default in payment of EPF & ESI contribution.

Unemployment among people below Poverty line

2827. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of unemployed persons especially those belonging to the families below poverty line as on 30th June, 1998;

(b) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to provide employment to them; if so, how many per month, per family; and

(c) if not, what other measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR SATNARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The latest information available on employment and unemployment situation in the country relates to the year 1993-94. The incidence of unemployment, expenditure class wise, for rural and urban areas is enclosed as statement-I and II *(see below)*. The estimated number of persons below the poverty line are the having expenditure levels in the group of 190-210 and below for rural areas; for urban areas the estimates are those having expenditure level of 265-310 and below as given in above mentioned Statements.

(b) and (c) The Government, in addition to its overall policy for employment generation, is implementing a number of wage employment programmes to protect the interests of the vulnerable sections.